









THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

NONI CLAIRE BOYLE

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF FINE ARTS


IN

DRAWING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 2003



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The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

Submitted by Noni Claire Boyle partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.



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NAME OF AUTHOR: NONI CLAIRE BOYLE

TITLE OF THESIS: FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

DEGREE FOR WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED: MASTER OF FINE ARTS

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I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections, University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Then & Now	2003	Mixed (acrylic & charcoal on paper mounted on board, gouache and burnt plywood)	58" x 63"





## Artist's Statement

*Every desire is a second chance.  
Every risk, a second, shimmering.  
Even loss shines  
in the dark.*

Carole Glasser Langille, from the poem "In the Harbour"

In this body of work, I have tried to create a poetic narrative about 'connectedness'. The works all derive from, and attempt to evoke the feeling of those transitory moments in our lives when the membrane that separates us from the world seems most permeable -- a moment of absolute clarity in which we are intensely aware that we are in fact as interconnected, with each other and our environment, as the components of an atom.

My work has focused on probing this mystery of connection/connectedness. I want to investigate the nature of those experiences -- where they are grounded, whether there is some commonality to them, and most of all, how it is possible to communicate something of that feeling. I have found much inspiration and some of the answers in poetry; in this work I have attempted to create visual poems. They are poems whose materials as well as content—their suggested or partial images- have meaning. I look for rhythm and tone in the tension that occurs where their very different moods or sections meet.

In this sense the works function as narratives, and in many cases I have adopted a format that refers to film. For me film is the medium of memory (since whether still or moving, images and their associations remain our primary means of 'hanging onto' these moments of significance). The images are connected in various ways; as sections of a temporal sequence, as different aspects of a moment or experience, as fragments of a whole that can't be quite grasped.

The works also contain references to the elements in which these experiences are grounded -- water, fire, earth and air. I have used colour and texture to create certain kinds of sensory responses or associations, and felt that I needed to go beyond the image in many cases, exploring the evocative power of different materials. Here I have used materials such as charred wood to create a visceral response in the viewer, with a set of associations that may have some commonalities, but be different for each individual. Assembling these images with a variety of media allows me to construct a visual experience that can function on several different levels, and provide a more open reading. This process creates a sense of wholeness -- out of diverse and apparently unrelated elements.

The images derive from my own experiences-- times of shared joy as well as sorrow and loss. While the source of the images is always very personal, the themes addressed are common to us all.

*Noni Boyle*





## Noni Boyle – MFA Exhibition – *A Shimmering Second*

### List of Slides

1. *Then and Now*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper mounted on board, gouache and acrylic on plywood, burnt) 59" x 63", 2003
2. *Then and Now, Detail*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper mounted on board, gouache and acrylic on plywood, burnt), 2003
3. *An Undiminished Light*, mixed media (acrylic on paper mounted on board, burnt plywood) 48" x 56", 2003
4. *Shimmer*, burnt wood, oil and wax, 48" x 36", 2003
5. *Some Kind of Journey*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper, mounted on board, burnt plywood), 3 panels 58" x 116", 2003
6. *Some Kind of Journey, Detail*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper, mounted on board, burnt plywood), 2003
7. *Moon River*, mixed media ( photograph, inkjet print on acetate, chalk, acrylic, resin and burnt plywood on board) 9.5" x 38.5" 2003
8. *Even Loss Shines in the Dark*, mixed media (charcoal on plywood, charcoal on paper mounted on board, and burnt plywood) triptych – each panel 17.5" x 13", 2003
9. *Down the River (to the sea)*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper mounted on board, burnt plywood), 24" x 80.5", 2002
10. *Down the River (to the sea), Detail*, mixed media (charcoal and acrylic on paper mounted on board, burnt plywood), 2002
11. *Take This Cup*, mixed media (charcoal and gouache on paper mounted on board, burnt plywood, ceramic cup, resin) 29.5" x 52.5", 2003
12. *Take This Cup, Detail*, mixed media (charcoal and gouache on paper mounted on board, burnt plywood, ceramic cup, resin) 29.5" x 52.5", 2003
13. *Keeping Afloat*, mixed media (acrylic, burnt plywood, and photograph) 5" x 21", 2003





14. *Tossing Stones(as if there were no end of stones)*, mixed media (pastel, acrylic, oil, wax, photocopy transfer, resin and stones on board) 9.5" x 34.5", 2003
15. *Carried by the Current*, mixed media (inkjet print on acetate, charcoal, acrylic, and burnt plywood on board) 10.5" x 38", 2003
16. *Memory is a Funny Thing (Judas Creek, YT)*, mixed media (acrylic and oil on board, charcoal and gouache on plywood, burnt plywood), 2003.
17. *Looking at Loons*, mixed media (charcoal, chalk and acrylic) on paper, 58" x 124", 2002
18. *Looking at Loons, Detail*, mixed media (charcoal, chalk and acrylic) on paper, 58" x 124", 2002
19. *Elegy for Sean*, mixed media (charcoal ink and acrylic on paper, mounted on board) 5 panels 49" x 173", 2003
20. *Elegy for Sean – Installation*
21. *Elegy for Sean – Detail*
22. *Elegy for Sean – Detail*







## a shimmering second

### Noni Boyle

September 2 - September 13, 2003

#### Reception

7:00 - 10:00 pm, Thursday, September 11

#### Gallery Hours

Tuesday to Friday; 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Closed Monday & Sunday

#### FAB Gallery

Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta

82 Av & 112 St, Edmonton, T6G 2C9

(780) 492-2081

This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Drawing.

Image: Noni Boyle, "An Undiminished Light", mixed media, 48" x 56"  
photo: bob@chelmick.com

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Every risk, a second, shimmering.  
Even loss shines  
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From the poem "In the Harbour"  
by Carole Glasser Langille

## a shimmering second

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Image: Noni Boyle, "Some Kind of Journey", mixed media, 58" x 116" (triptych)  
photo: bob@chelmick.com

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